



DURGADAS

THE LOYAL COURTIER

Vol 739





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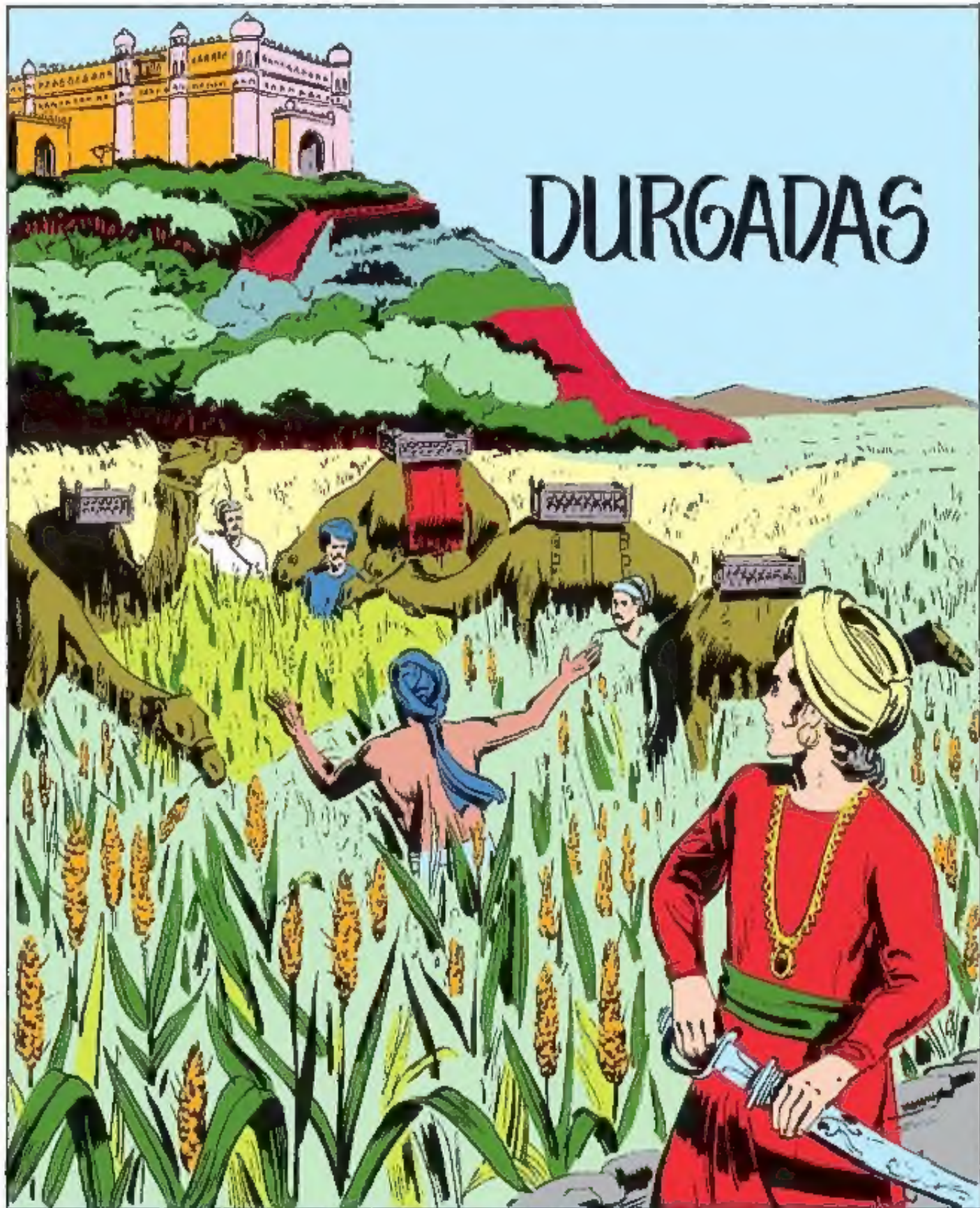
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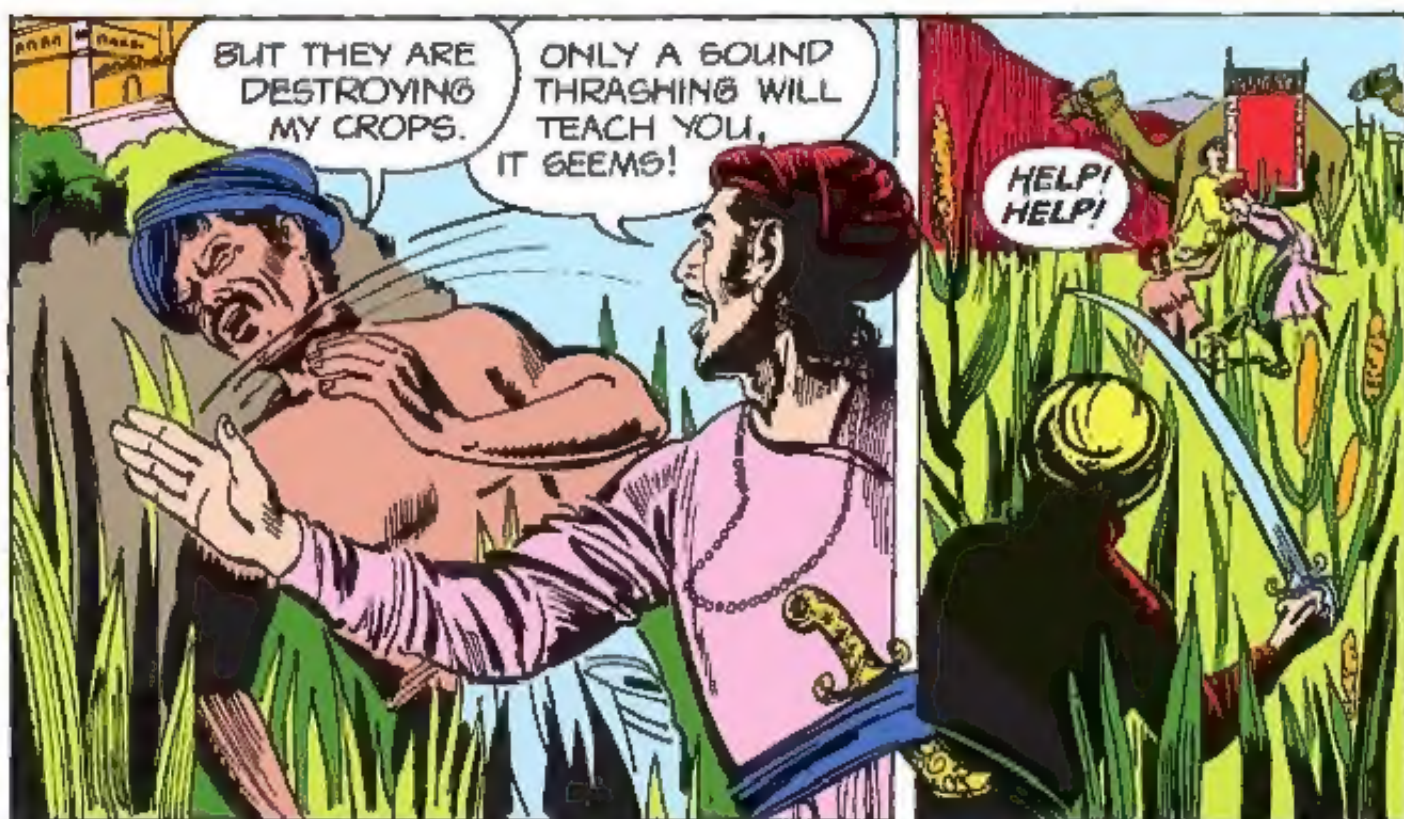
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DURGADAS



DURGADAS WAS THE SON OF THE THIRD WIFE OF THAKUR AASKARAN, THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE KING OF JODHPUR. ONE DAY WHEN HE WAS BARELY 18 YEARS OLD, HE WAS STANDING OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE OF SALVE, WHERE HE LIVED WITH HIS MOTHER.



DURGADAS UNSHEATHED HIS SWORD AND WENT FORWARD TO PUNISH THE ARROGANT CAMELEERS.



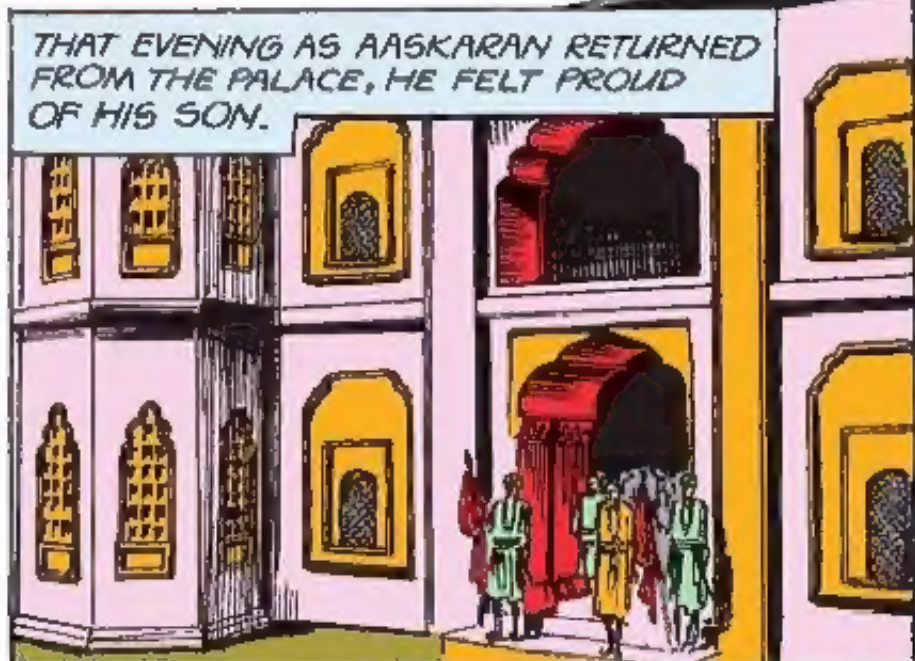
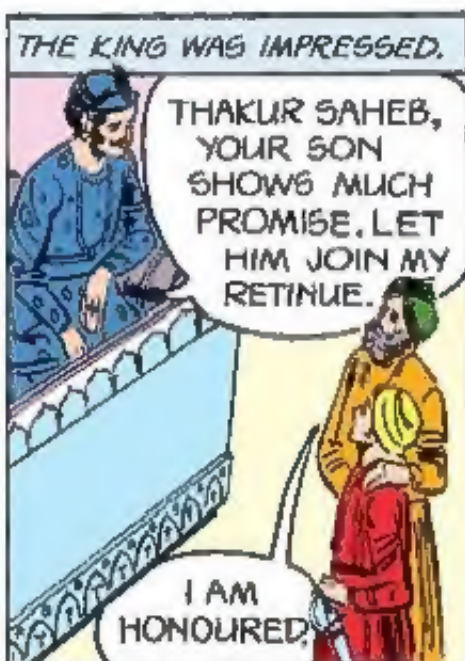
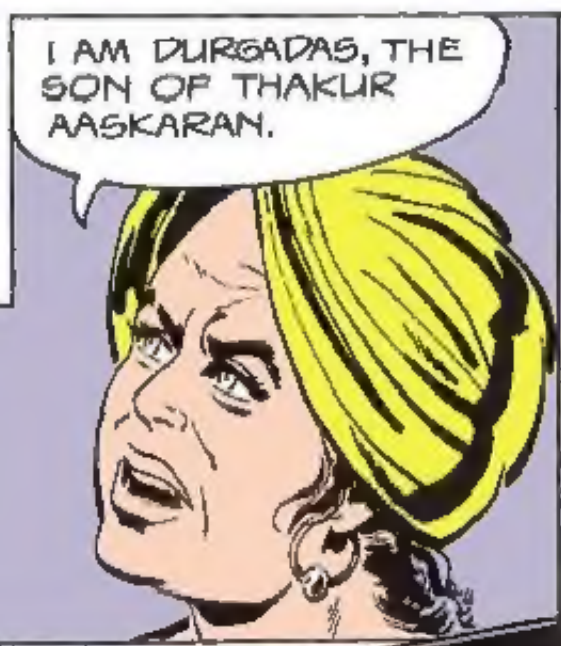
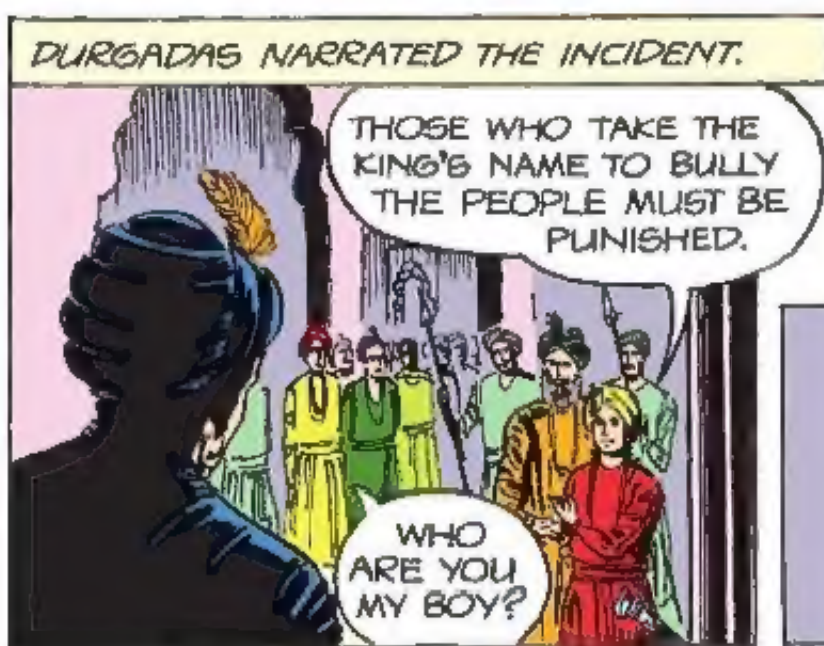
THE FRIGHTENED CAMELEERS CAME RUNNING TO JASWANT SINGH, THE KING OF JODHPUR, AND COMPLAINED.

WHILE WE WERE BRINGING YOUR CAMELS, A BOY QUARRELLED WITH US AT SALVE AND KILLED ONE OF US.



HAVE THAT BOY BROUGHT HERE!



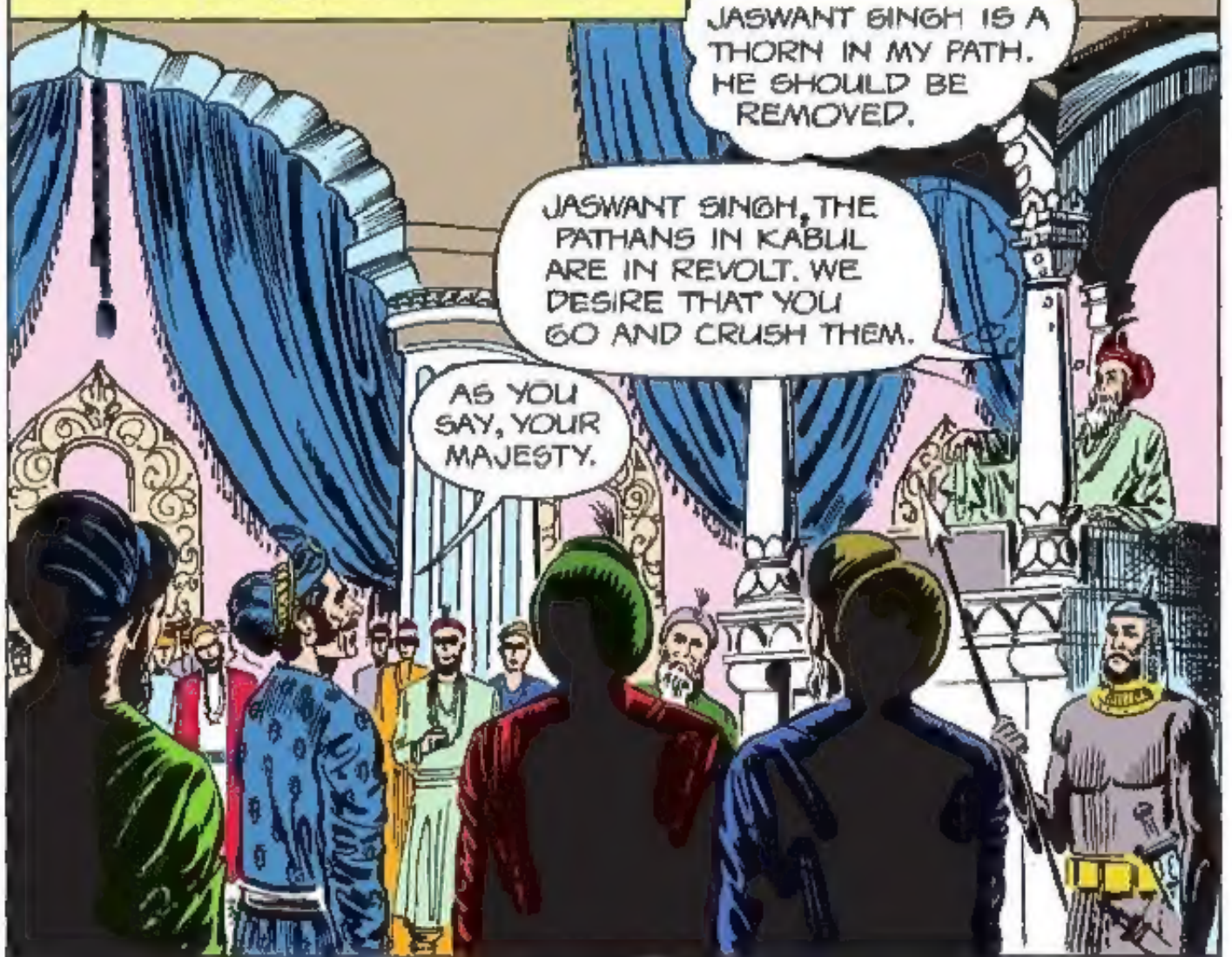


YEARS PASSED. AURANGZEB BECAME THE MUGHAL EMPEROR, AND THUS THE OVERLORD OF JASWANT SINGH WHOM HE FEARED AND RESPECTED. ONE DAY—

JASWANT SINGH IS A THORN IN MY PATH. HE SHOULD BE REMOVED.

JASWANT SINGH, THE PATHANS IN KABUL ARE IN REVOLT. WE DESIRE THAT YOU GO AND CRUSH THEM.

AS YOU SAY, YOUR MAJESTY.



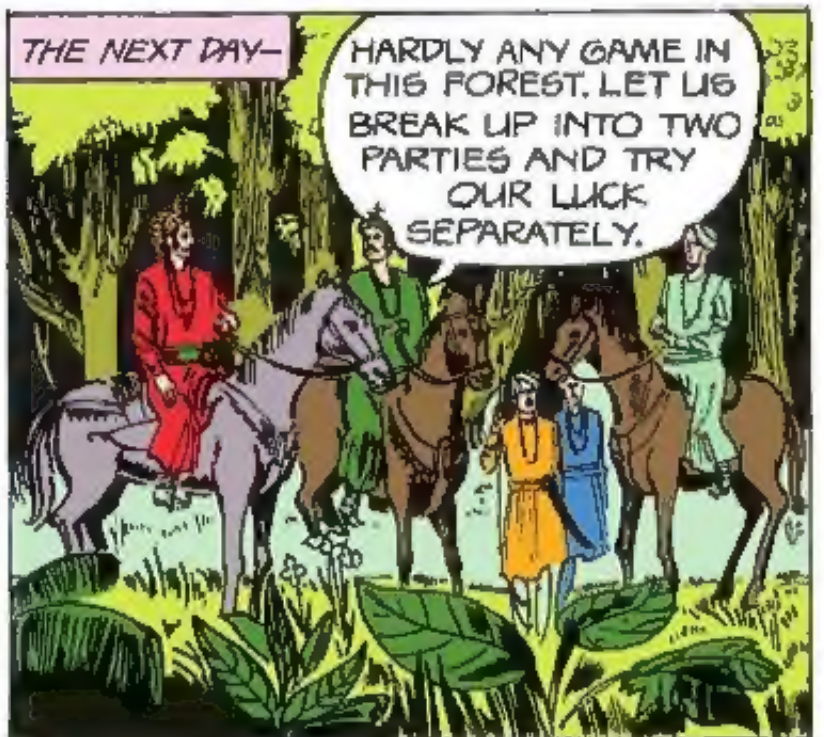
DURGADAS WENT WITH JASWANT SINGH TO KABUL AND HELPED TO RESTORE PEACE. LATER—

LET US GO HUNTING TOMORROW.



THE NEXT DAY—

HARDLY ANY GAME IN THIS FOREST. LET US BREAK UP INTO TWO PARTIES AND TRY OUR LUCK SEPARATELY.



DURING THE LONG AND EXCITING CHASE, DURGADAS WAS SEPARATED FROM HIS MEN. TIRED, HE STRETCHED OUT IN A GLADE...



...WHERE JASWANT SINGH FOUND HIM AFTER SOME TIME. HE REMOVED HIS CUMMERBUND AND TIED IT TO THE TREE TO PROTECT HIM FROM THE SUN.



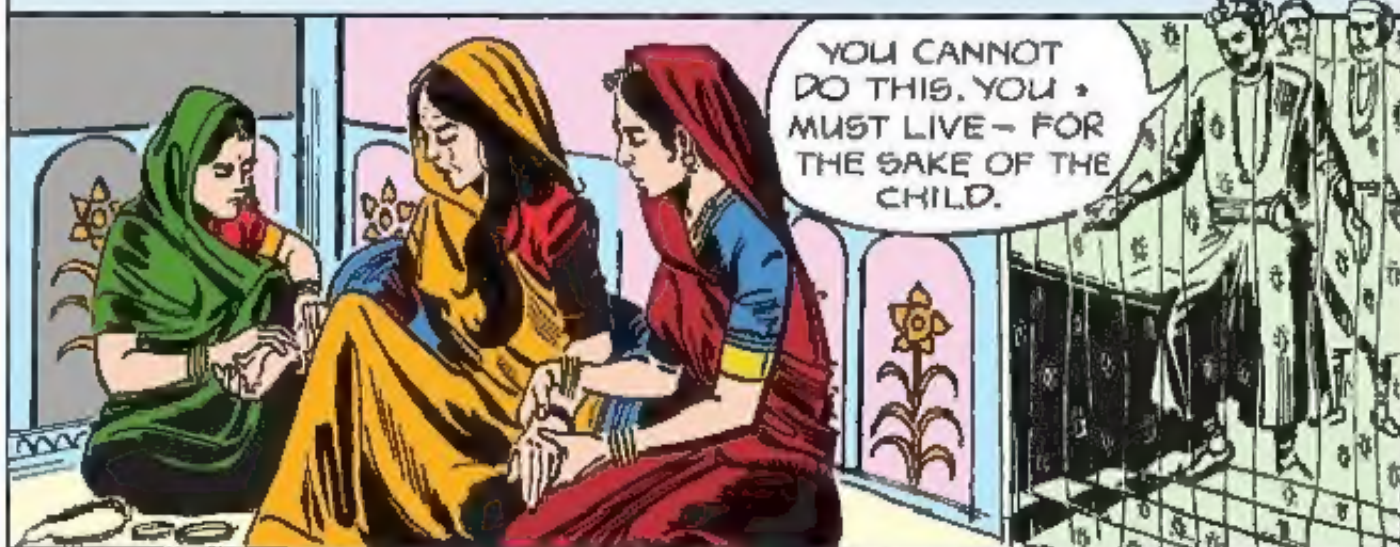
THE SUN SHOULD NOT DISTURB HIS SLEEP.



YOUR MAJESTY, ONE OF US COULD HAVE DONE THIS.

HE IS DESTINED TO PROTECT THE RAJPUTS FROM THE MUGHALS. IT IS MY PRIVILEGE TO DO THIS FOR HIM.

JASWANT SINGH DIED WHILE STILL IN KABUL. HIS QUEEN, THOUGH PREGNANT, GOT HERSELF READY FOR "SATI." DURGADAS DISSUADED HER.



YOU CANNOT DO THIS. YOU MUST LIVE - FOR THE SAKE OF THE CHILD.

ALL OF THEM LEFT KABUL FOR JODHPUR. ON THE WAY, AT LAHORE, THE QUEEN GAVE BIRTH TO A SON. HE WAS NAMED AJEET SINGH.

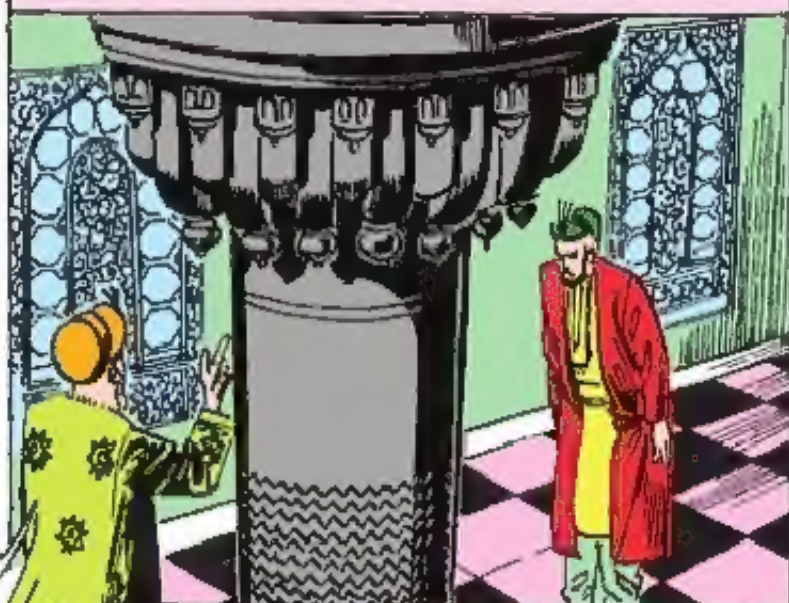


BY THEN AURANGZEB HAD ANNEXED JODHPUR.

AJEET SINGH, THE KING OF JODHPUR! HA-HA! ONLY A FOOL WOULD GIVE JODHPUR BACK TO THE RAJPUTS.



DURGADAS REACHED DELHI AND STAYED AT A FRIEND'S PALACE. MEANWHILE, AT AURANGZEB'S COURT-



TELL DURGADAS TO PRESENT THE QUEEN MOTHER AND THE PRINCE AT OUR PALACE.



I SHALL FORCE THEM TO GET CONVERTED TO ISLAM.



WHEN DURGADAS REFUSED TO GO TO THE MUGHAL COURT, AURANJEB WAS ANGRY.

SEE THAT THEY DON'T LEAVE DELHI.



THE PALACE WHERE DURGADAS WAS STAYING WAS SURROUNDED.



DURGADAS WAS FURIOUS. HE TOOK AN OATH.



I SOLEMNLY VOW TO FREE JODHPUR FROM THE MUGHALS AND CROWN AJEET SINGH KING.

FIRST, WE MUST GET AJEET SINGH TO A SAFE PLACE.

DO WHAT YOU FEEL IS BEST.



DURGADAS HATCHED A PLOT WITH THE HELP OF GOR TAK, A FAITHFUL MAID OF THE QUEEN.

GOR TAK, THIS IS WHAT YOU MUST DO. AND DO IT TOMORROW.

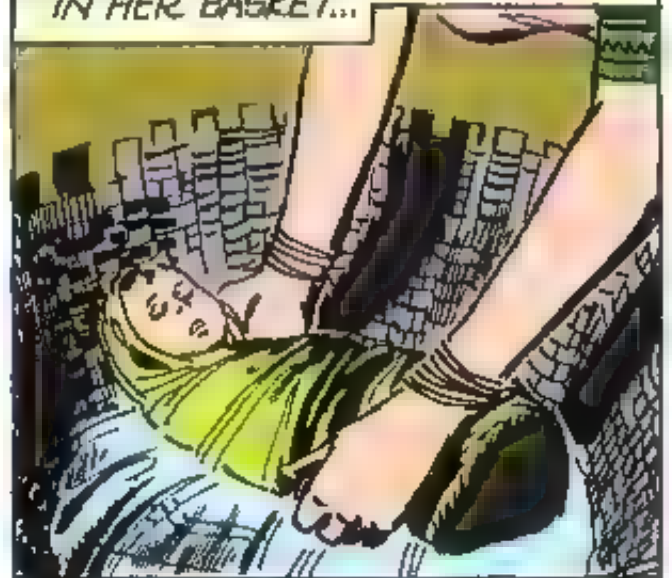
YES, SIR!



THE NEXT DAY, GOR TAK,
DISGUISED AS A
SWEEPER...



.. HID THE SLEEPING PRINCE
IN HER BASKET...



...AND AS PLANNED,
TOOK HIM TO
MUKUND DAS, A
RAJPUT
DISGUISED AS
A SNAKE
CHARMER.



MUKUND DAS PUT THE PRINCE INTO ONE OF
HIS BASKETS...



...AND LEFT FOR
LUDAIPUR.



THE RAJPUTS REFUSED TO SURRENDER TO THE MUGHALS. AURANZEB LOST HIS PATIENCE.



ATTACK THE PALACE AND CAPTURE THE QUEEN MOTHER AND THE PRINCE

DURGADAS, SURRENDER OR ELSE YOU DIE.



DURGADAS WOULD NOT YIELD TO THREATS. NOR WOULD THE QUEEN MOTHER. DRESSED AS A SOLDIER, SHE TOO GOT READY FOR THE FIGHT.



WE MUST FIGHT AND TRY TO ESCAPE.

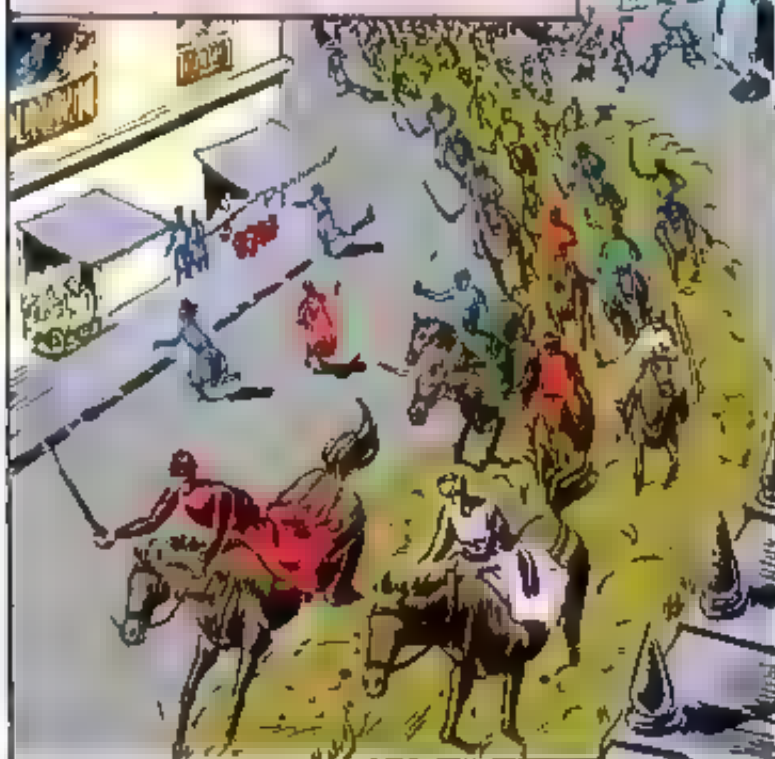
IT IS BETTER TO DIE FIGHTING THAN TO SURRENDER.



OPEN THE GATE AND ATTACK.



AFTER A BITTER FIGHT, DURGADAS, THE QUEEN MOTHER AND SOME 300 RAJPUT SOLDIERS ESCAPED.



HAVING REACHED LIDAI PUR, THEY SOUGHT THE HELP OF RANA RAJ SINGH, THE KING OF MEWAR.

YOU SHALL BE UNDER MY CARE.



WHEN AURANGZEB CAME TO KNOW OF IT—

HOW DARE RAJ SINGH GO AGAINST MY WISHES! HE MUST BE TAUGHT A LESSON.

COMMANDER! MOUNT AN ATTACK ON LIDAI PUR AT ONCE.



AT UDAIPUR—

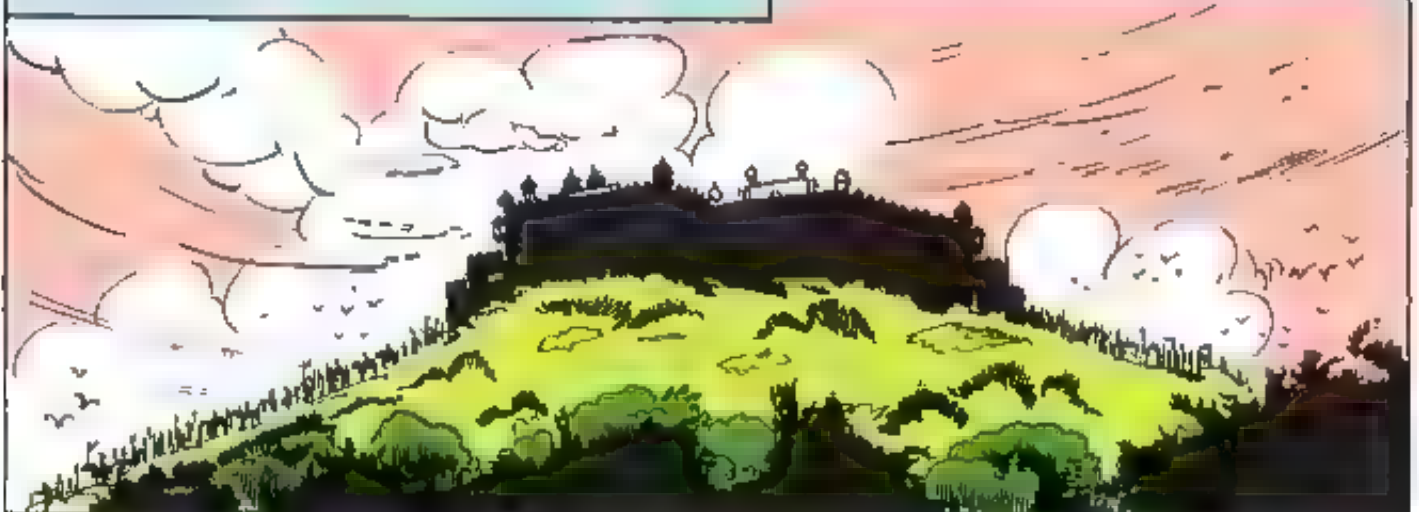
MAHARANA,
AURANGZEB'S
SON, AKBAR
AND HIS ARMY
ARE CLOSING
IN.

DURGADAS,
WE ARE
ALSO
PREPARED.
AS FOR
AJEET, HE
IS NOW
IN A
SAFE
PLACE.

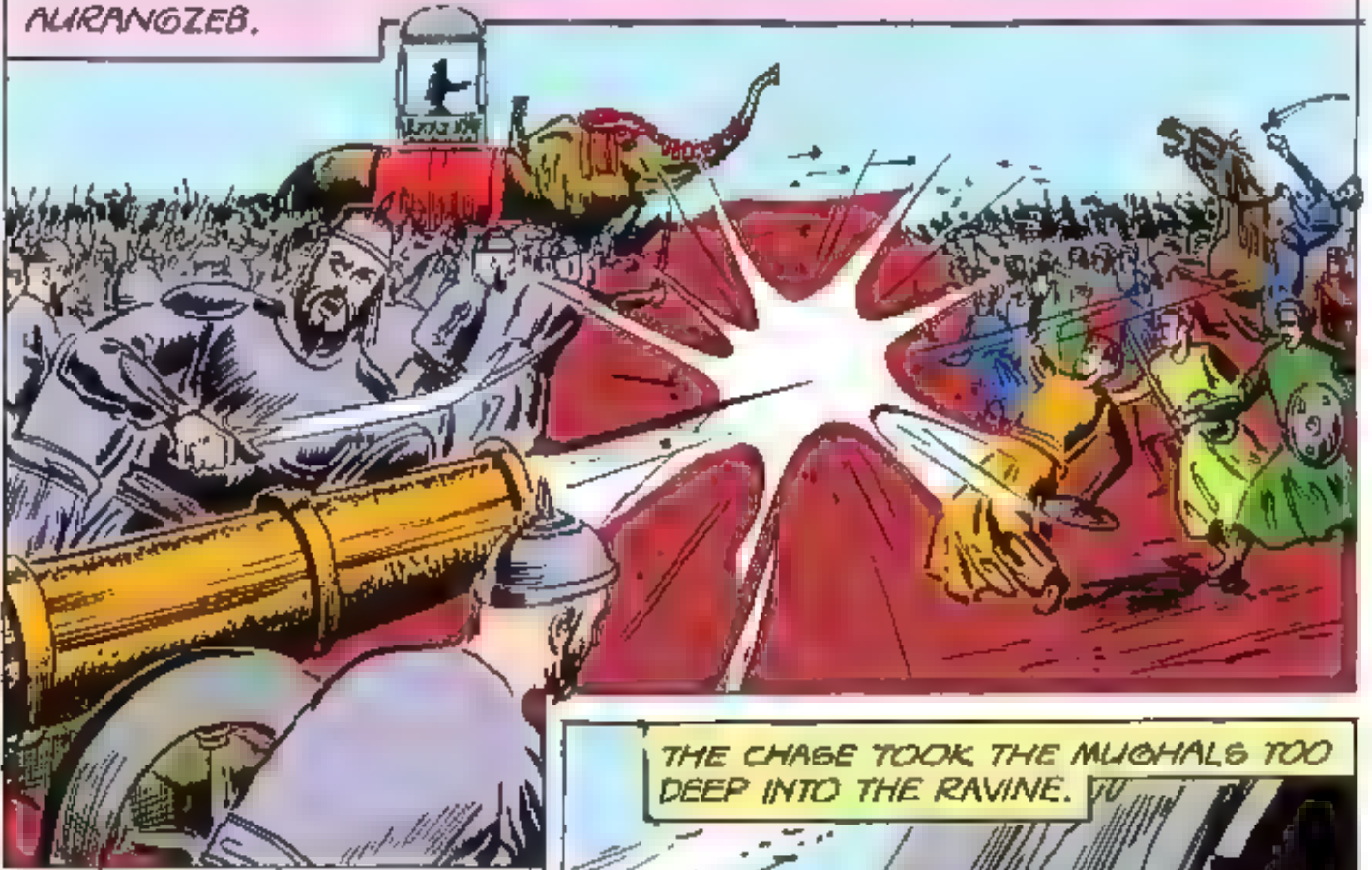
AURANGZEB TOO
IS ADVANCING TO-
WARDS UDAIPUR.
THIS TIME WE MUST
TEACH THEM A
GOOD LESSON.

HIS QUEEN IS
ALSO WITH HIM.
SHE MUST BE
CAPTURED AND
BROUGHT
TO ME.

A BATTALION UNDER JAI SINGH, SON OF RAJ SINGH, SET OUT TO
FIGHT AKBAR DURGADAS AND HIS MEN MARCHED TOWARDS DEWARI TO
MEET AURANGZEB AND HIS FORCES.

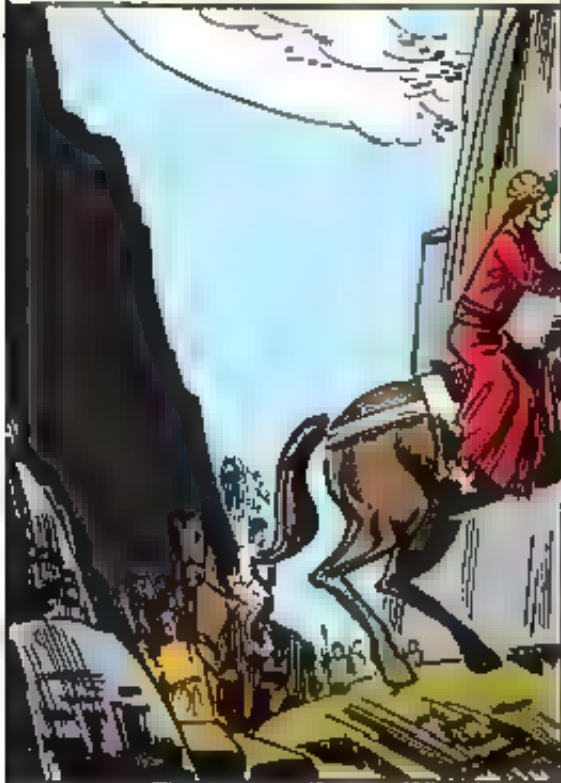


IT WAS A FIERCE BATTLE BETWEEN THE FORCES OF DURGADAS AND AURANGZEB.



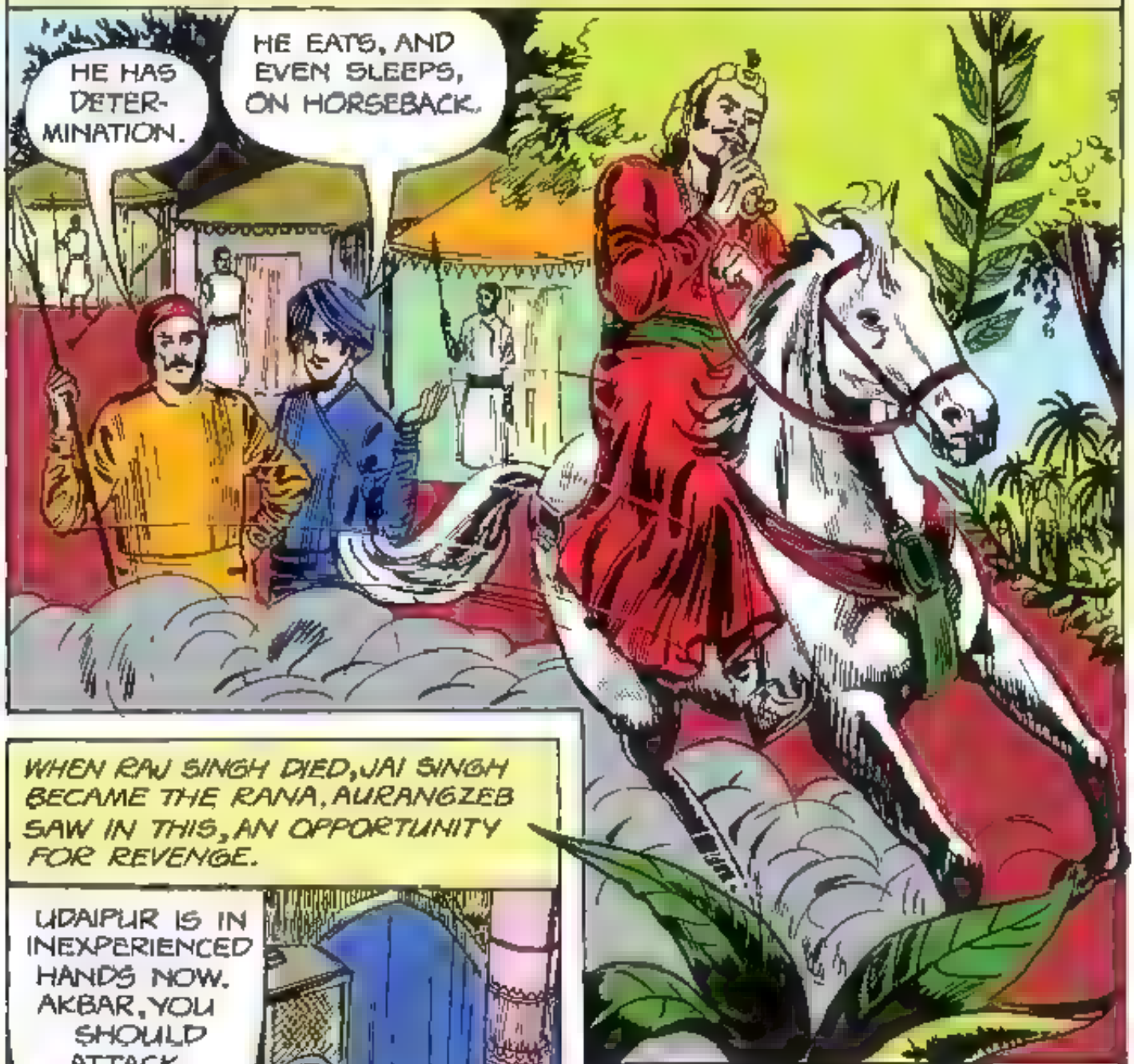
THE CHASE TOOK THE MUGHALS TOO DEEP INTO THE RAVINE.

DURGADAS TRIED A RUSE. HE PRETENDED TO RUN AWAY FROM THE BATTLEFIELD AND THUS LED THE PURSUING FORCES OF AURANGZEB INTO A RAVINE.





THE FIGHT AGAINST THE MUGHALS WENT ON FOR A LONG TIME.

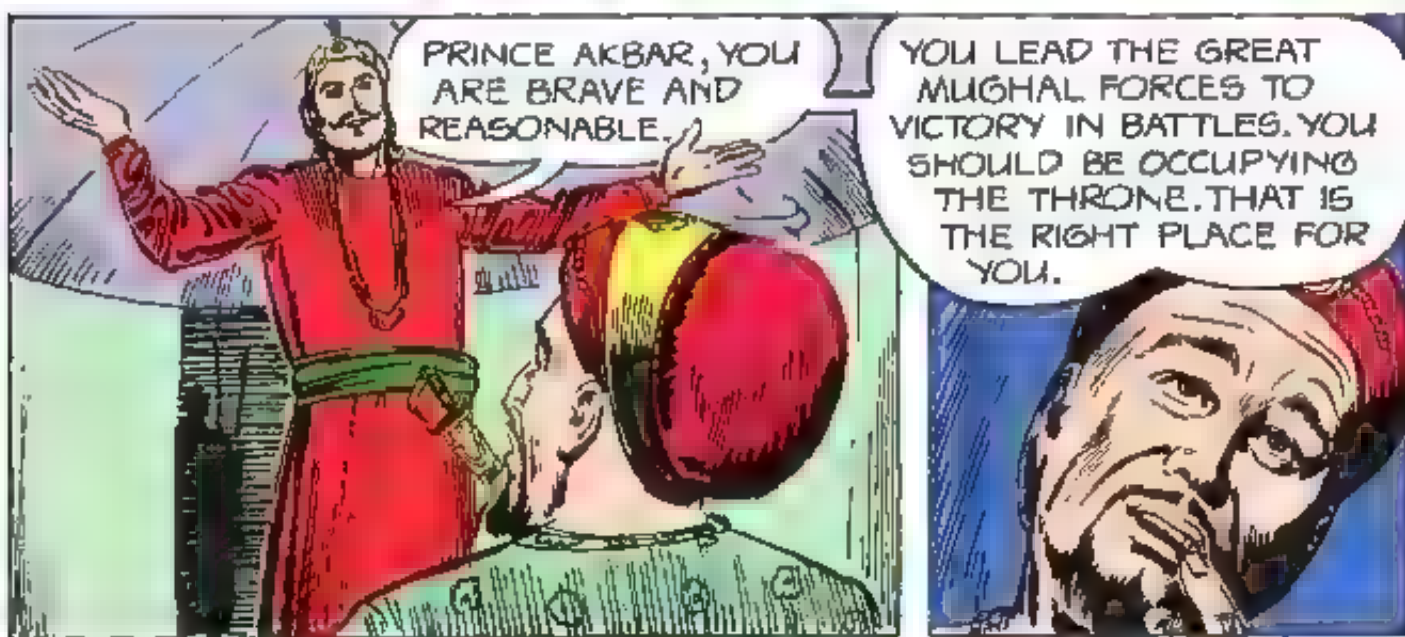
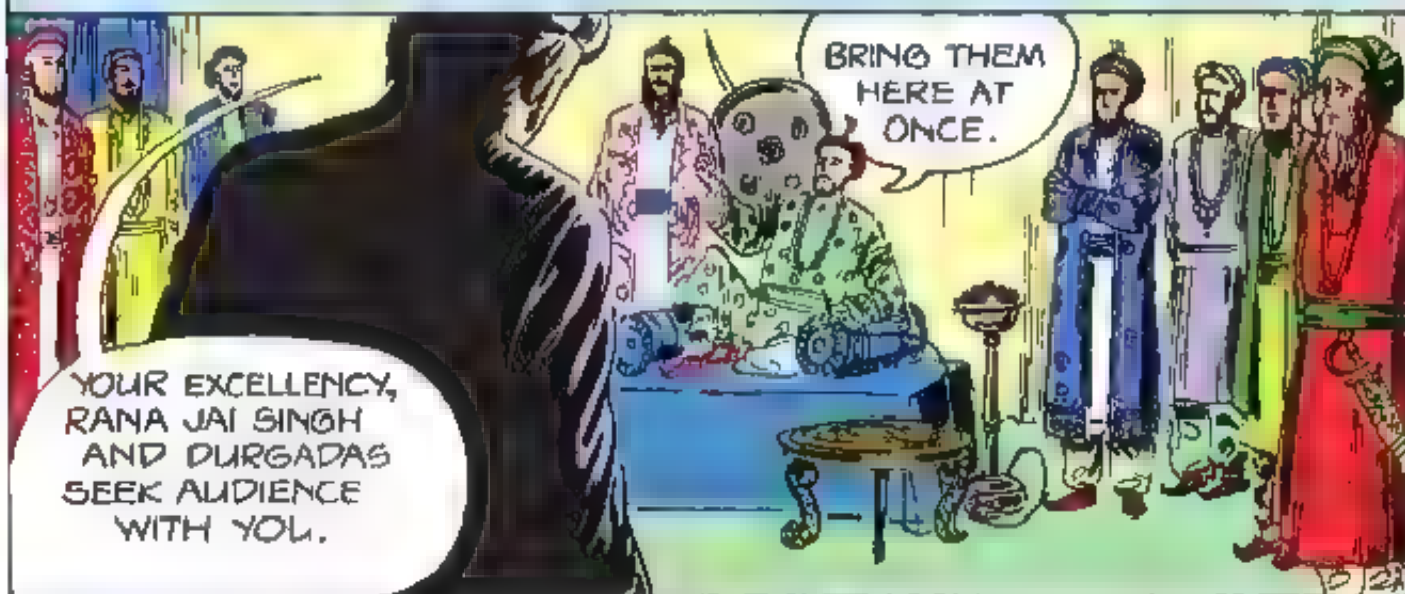


DURGADAS HEARD OF AURANGZEB'S PLAN AND CAME BACK TO UDAIPUR.

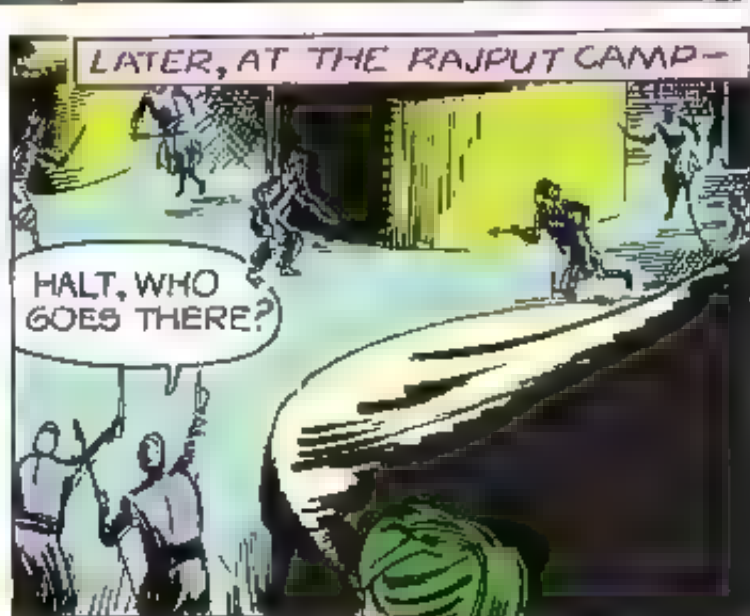
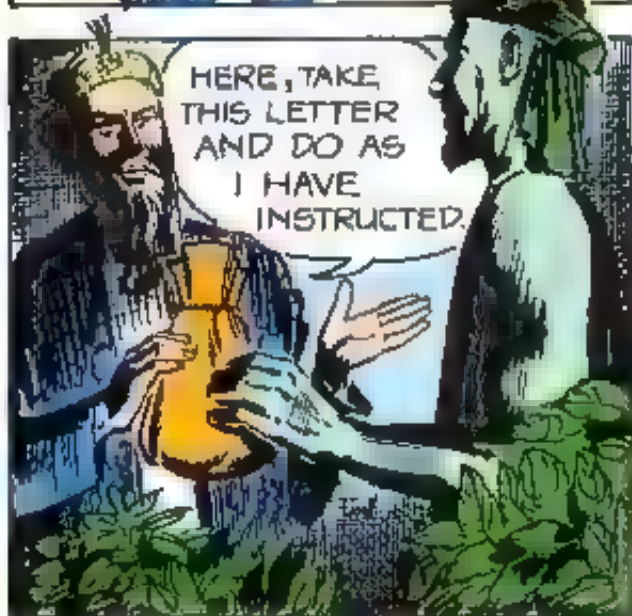
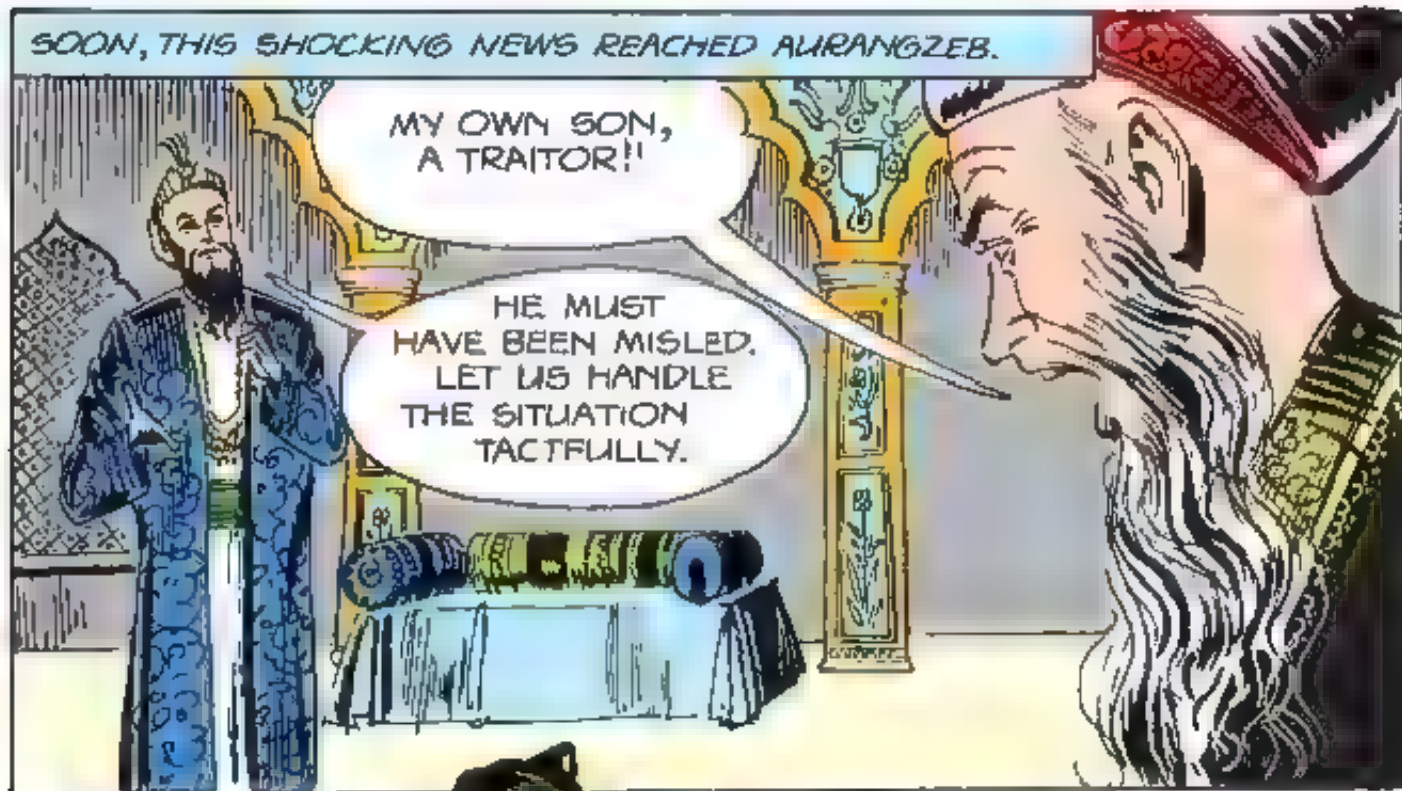
RANAJI, WE SHOULD AVOID UNNECESSARY BLOODSHED.



JAI SINGH AND DURGADAS WENT TO THE MUGHAL CAMP.



SOON, THIS SHOCKING NEWS REACHED AURANGZEB.





THIS MUGHAL SOLDIER
WAS MOVING STEALTHILY
AND HE HAS A
LETTER FOR
PRINCE
AKBAR.

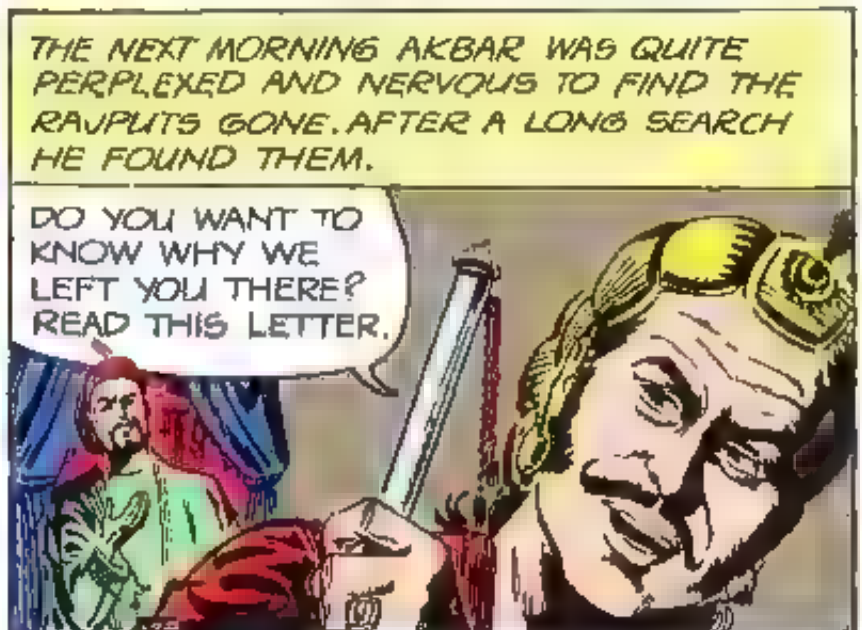
LET US SEE
THAT
LETTER.



AKBAR, WELL DONE, MY
SON. GO ON POSING AS
THEIR FRIEND AND
KEEP US INFORMED
OF THEIR
PLANS.

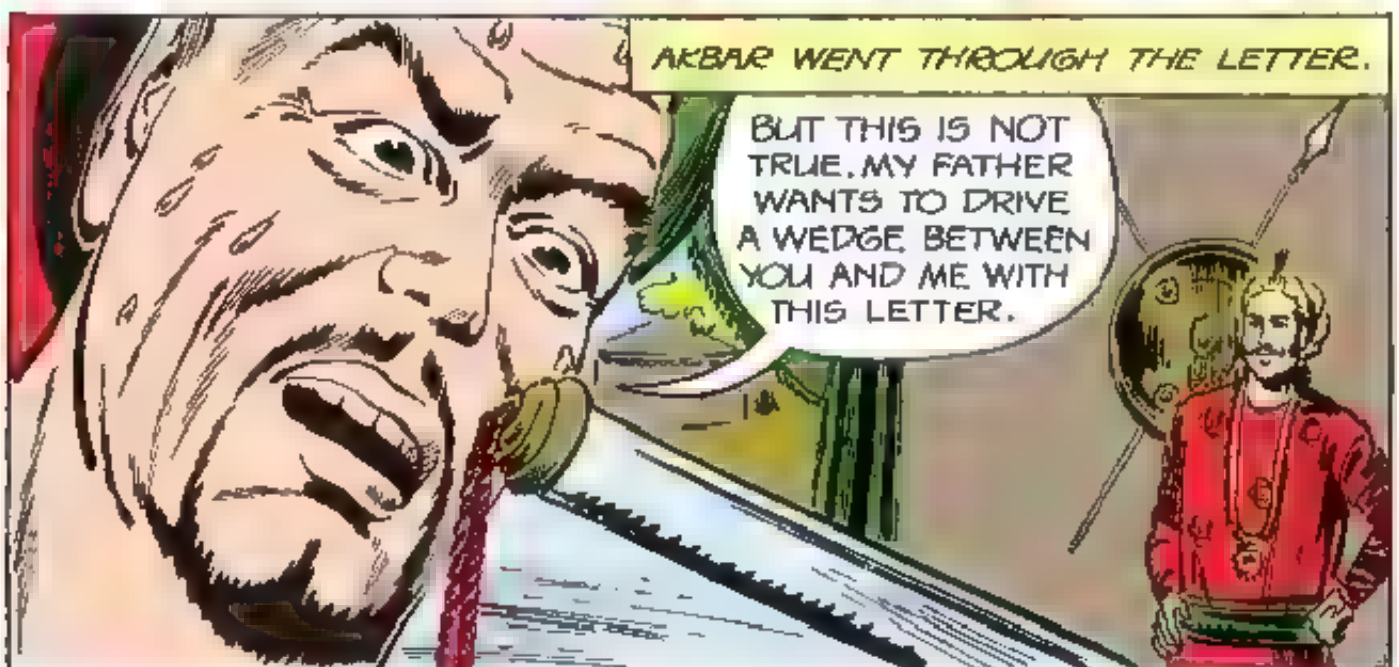


SO THIS IS
WHAT AKBAR
IS UP TO. WE
MUST HASTEN AWAY
FROM HIM AT ONCE.



THE NEXT MORNING AKBAR WAS QUITE
PERPLEXED AND NERVOUS TO FIND THE
RAUPLITS GONE. AFTER A LONG SEARCH
HE FOUND THEM.

DO YOU WANT TO
KNOW WHY WE
LEFT YOU THERE?
READ THIS LETTER.



AKBAR WENT THROUGH THE LETTER.

BUT THIS IS NOT
TRUE. MY FATHER
WANTS TO DRIVE
A WEDGE BETWEEN
YOU AND ME WITH
THIS LETTER.



AT THE COURT OF SAMBHAJI, THE MARATHA KING—

WELCOME, DURGADAS!
AND PRINCE AKBAR.
WHAT BRINGS YOU
HERE?

I HAVE COME
WITH A PLAN TO
DEFEAT
AURANGZEB.

STAY WITH ME
FOR SOME
DAYS AND WE
SHALL
DISCUSS
YOUR
PLAN.

BUT THE DISCUSSIONS WERE IN VAIN.

IT IS NOT
POSSIBLE
TO UNITE THE
MARATHAS AND
THE RAJPUTS.
LET US NOT
WASTE OUR TIME HERE.

THE NEXT MORNING—

IT IS FRUITLESS
STAYING ON; WE
PLAN TO LEAVE
TOMORROW.

I AM SORRY,
I AM UNABLE TO
HELP YOU.

DURGADAS WITH PRINCE AKBAR WAS ON HIS WAY TO MARWAR WHEN-

DURGADAS, YOU'D BETTER RETURN ALONE TO MARWAR. I HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS UNCERTAIN LIFE. I SHALL GO TO IRAN. PLEASE TAKE CARE OF MY CHILDREN.

AS YOU WISH, GO IN PEACE AND DO NOT WORRY ABOUT YOUR CHILDREN.

IN THE MEANTIME, HARASSED BY THE MARATHAS, AURANGZEB, HIMSELF, WENT SOUTH-WARDS TO QUELL THEM. THE RAJPUTS IN MARWAR FOUND THIS TO BE A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR REVENGE.

NOW IS THE TIME TO STRIKE.

LET US ATTACK SIWANE FORT.

THE RAJPUTS ATTACKED AND CAPTURED THE SIWANE FORT. AJEET SINGH, THOUGH TEN YEARS OLD BY THEN, WAS STILL IN HIDING.

NOW THAT WE HAVE CAPTURED THIS FORT, I THINK IT'S SAFE FOR OUR KING TO COME OUT OF HIDING.



YES, WE WANT TO SEE HIM.

MUKUNDAS, BRING OUR KING BACK TO US.

NO! WE MUST WAIT TILL DURGADAS COMES BACK.

NO, WE WANT TO SEE HIM NOW.

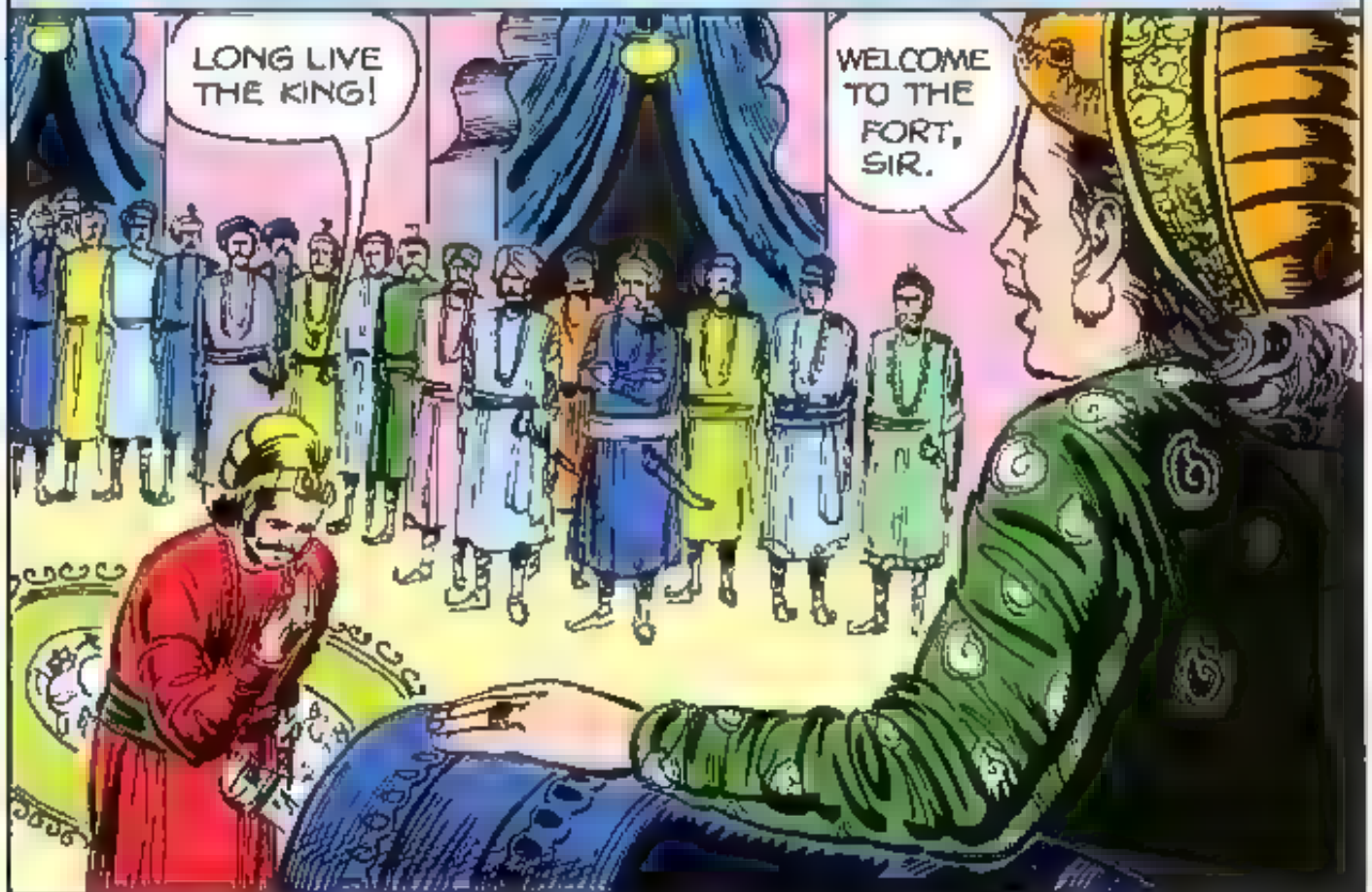


FORCED BY THE RAJPUTS, MUKUNDAS BROUGHT AJEET SINGH OUT OF HIDING

LONG LIVE THE KING.



IN THE MEANTIME, DURGADAS WAS ON HIS WAY TO MARWAR, ATTACKING AND LOOTING THE MUGHALS, HE REACHED SIWANE AND WENT TO SEE MAHARAJ AJEET SINGH.



IN 1692, PRINCE AMAR SINGH OF UDAIPUR REBELLED AGAINST HIS FATHER, RANA JAI SINGH, WHO SENT A MESSENGER TO AJEET SINGH FOR HELP.





RANA JAI SINGH
WANTS OUR HELP.
HIS SON AMAR
SINGH HAS
REBELLED
AGAINST
HIM.

I SHALL
LEAVE FOR
UDAIPUR
IMMEDIATELY.

DURGADAS REACHED UDAIPUR WITH 30,000 SOLDIERS.



DURGADAS,
YOU
BRING
CONSOLATION
TO ME.

RANAJI, YOU
MUST FORGIVE
THE PRINCE. HE
IS STILL
IMMATURE.

DURGADAS MET PRINCE AMAR SINGH

REVOLTS AND
CIVIL STRIFES
HAVE BEEN
THE BANE OF
US RAJPUTS.
LET US BE
UNITED AND
FIGHT OUR
COMMON
ENEMY, THE
MUGHALS.

YOU ARE
RIGHT. I SHALL
GO BACK TO MY
FATHER AND
SEEK HIS PARDON.

WITH DURGADAS'S EFFORTS, FATHER AND SON WERE UNITED
AND DURGADAS RETURNED TO SIWANE.

AURANGZEB, WHO HAD GROWN OLD,
NOW WANTED AKBAR'S CHILDREN NEAR HIM.

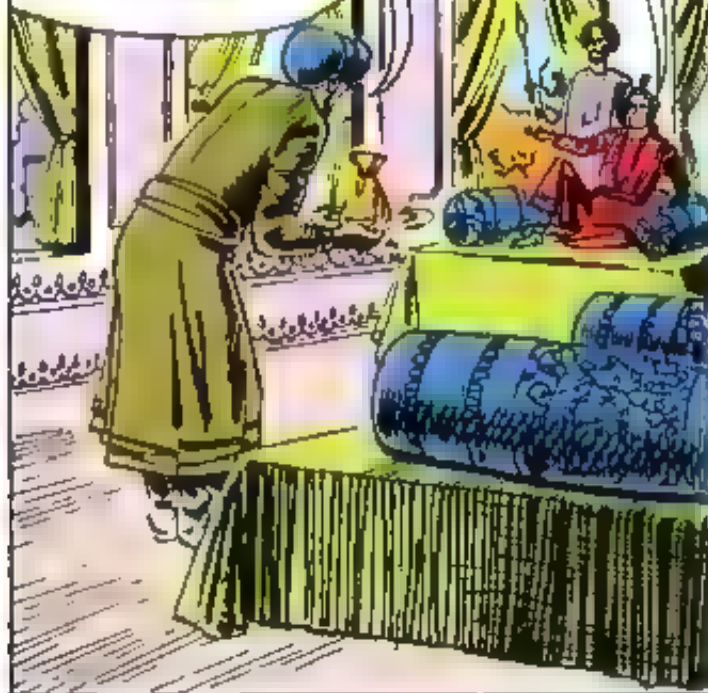
AKBAR'S SON AND
DAUGHTER ARE STILL
WITH DURGADAS.
ASK HIM TO SEND
THEM TO ME.

I WILL,
YOUR
EXCELLENCY.

SOON, AURANGZEB'S MESSENGER REACHED SIWANE.

A LETTER FOR YOU SIR, FROM THE EMPEROR AURANGZEB.

LET ME SEE IT.



SO AURANGZEB WANTS AKBAR'S SON AND DAUGHTER. BUT HE WILL HAVE TO GIVE ME SOMETHING IN RETURN.



HERE, TAKE THIS REPLY TO THE MUGHAL EMPEROR.



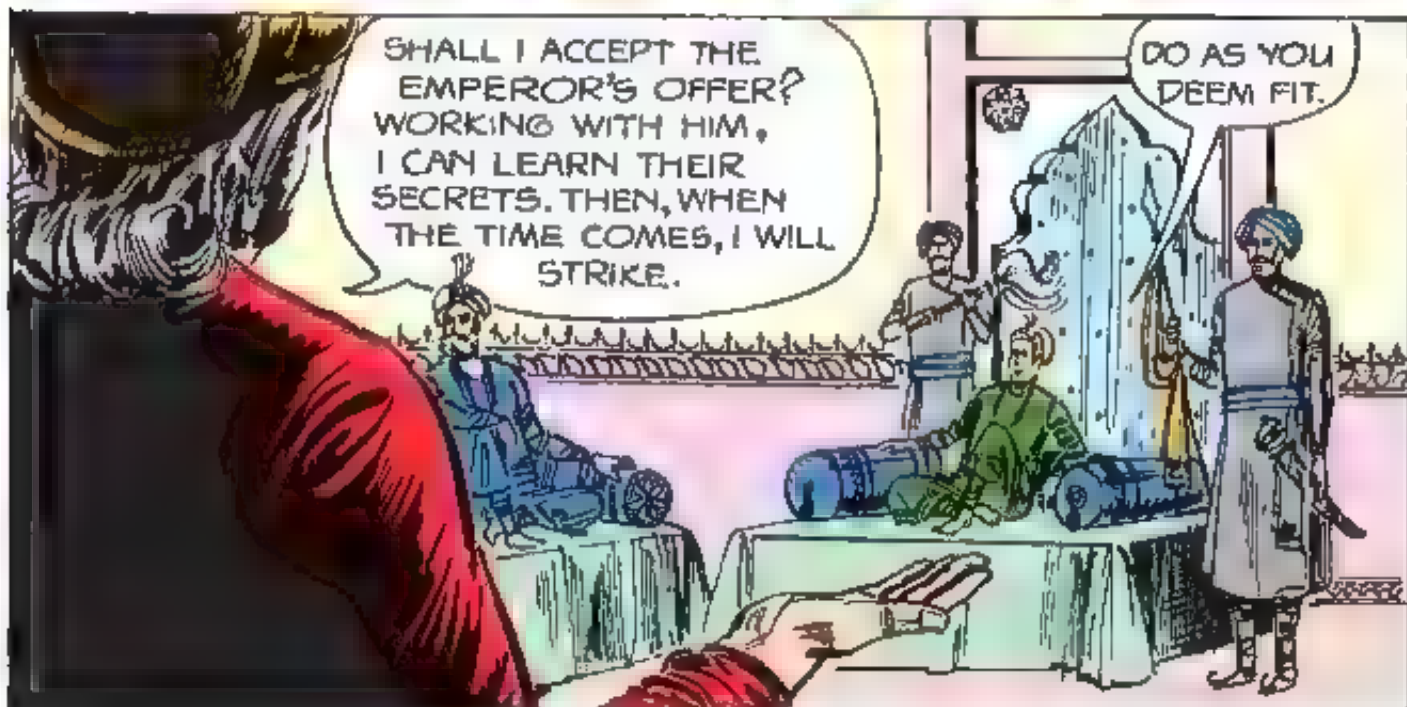
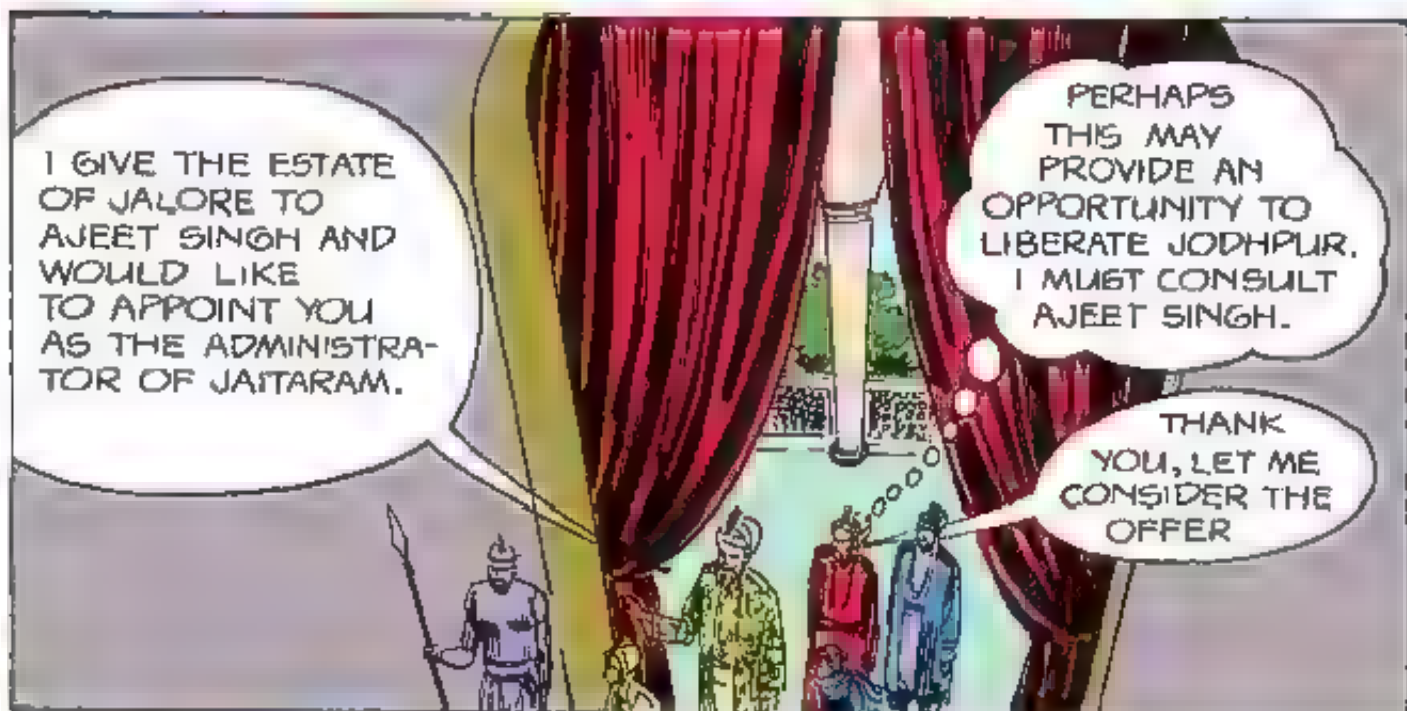
DURGADAS WANTS JODHPUR FOR AJEET SINGH, IN RETURN. BUT I SHALL NOT YIELD TO THIS BARGAINING.

DURGADAS HELD A MEETING OF THE RAJPUT ELDERS.



DURGADAS REACHED AURANGZEB'S COURT.





DURGADAS ACCEPTED
AURANGZEB'S OFFER AND
THEN, AFTER SOME TIME —



AURANGZEB DIED IN 1707.
DURGADAS IMMEDIATELY WENT
TO SEE AJEET SINGH.

AURANGZEB IS DEAD.
THIS IS OUR MOMENT.
ATTACK JODHPUR
AT ONCE.

YES. PREPARE
FOR
ATTACK.



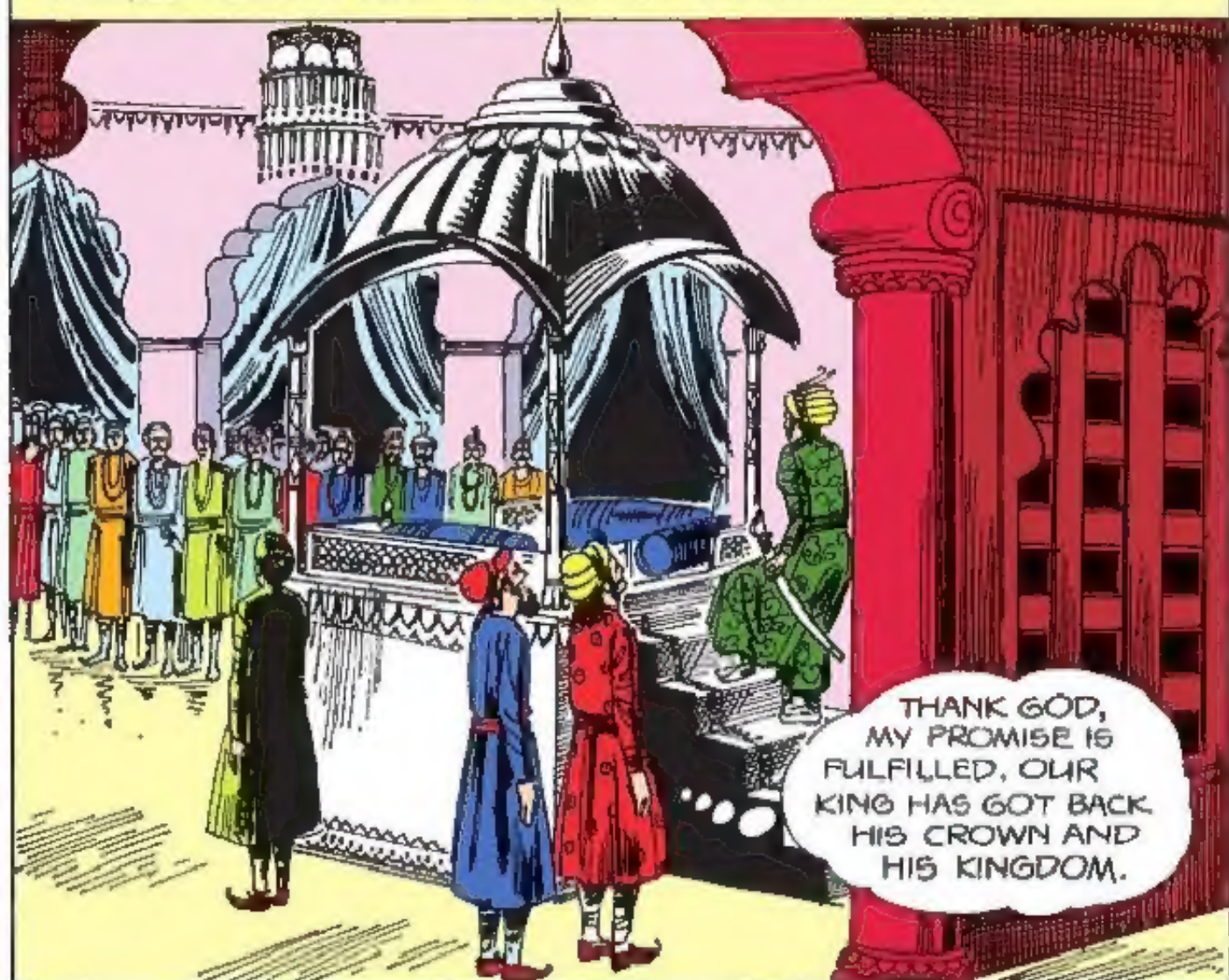
JODHPUR WAS ATTACKED.



A FIERCE BATTLE TOOK PLACE, BUT ULTIMATELY THE MUGHALS WERE DEFEATED.



THUS, 29 YEARS AFTER THE DEATH OF JASWANT SINGH...



THE VALOUR OF DURGADAS IS REMEMBERED EVEN TODAY. A MONUMENT CALLED "RATHOR KI CHATTANI" IS STILL THERE ON THE BANK OF THE RIVER KSHIPRA IN LUJAIN, WHERE DURGADAS DIED.

WHICH OF THE ACKs HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

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Abhimanyu
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Ayyappa
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Bheeshma
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Dasharatha
Dhruva And Ashtavakra
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Elephanta
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Ganesha And The Moon
Ganga
Garuda
Ghatotkacha
Hanuman
Hanuman To The Rescue
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Heroes Of Hampi
Indra And Shachi
Indra And Shibi
Indra And Vritra
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Jayadratha
Kacha And Devayani
Kama
Kartika
Karna
Krishna
Krishna And Jarasandha
Krishna And Nakasura
Krishna And Rukmini
Krishna And Shishupala
Krishna And The False
Vasudeva
Kubera
Kumbhakarna
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HITOPADESHA TALES
Choice Of Friends
How Friends Are Parted
Hothead
JATAKA TALES
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Jackal Stories
Monkey Stories
Nandi Vishala
Stories Of Courage
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